



# **Emergency Response to Disruption of Civilian Water Supplies**

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# Overview of Presentation

- ◆ Accomplishments of EPA's Water Protection Task Force
- ◆ Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002
- ◆ EPA's Homeland Security Strategic Plan
- ◆ Challenges Ahead



## Accomplishments - -

### ***“Making the Most Systems Safest the Soonest”***

- ◆ Developed Tools & Conducted Training
- ◆ Provided Technical & Financial Assistance
- ◆ Established an Information Sharing System
- ◆ Improved our Knowledge



# Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002

- ◆ Amends SDWA
- ◆ Vulnerability Assessments
- ◆ Emergency Response Plans
- ◆ Research



President Bush, Tom Ridge, and Christine Todd Whitman tour the Kansas City Water Treatment Plant



# Implementing the Bioterrorism Act: *Requirements for Utilities*

- ◆ Conduct vulnerability assessment
- ◆ Develop or revise emergency response plan
- ◆ Certifications and submission to EPA.
- ◆ Phased schedule from March 2003 to June 2004 depending on size





# Implementing the Bioterrorism Act: *Requirements for EPA*

- ◆ Baseline information regarding kinds of attacks and probable threats
  - Key components of VA
  - Determination of level of threat
  - Types of Attacks
- ◆ Guidance for systems serving less than 3,300 persons





# Vulnerability Assessments: Six Key Elements

- ◆ Characterization of the system
- ◆ Identification and prioritization of adverse consequences to avoid
- ◆ Determination of critical assets
- ◆ Assessment of likelihood of attack
- ◆ Evaluation of existing countermeasures
- ◆ Analysis of risk and development of risk reduction plan



# Implementing the Bioterrorism Act: *Requirements for EPA*

- ◆ Information Protection Protocol
- ◆ Research
  - Methods to prevent, detect and respond to contamination.
  - Methods to prevent disruption of the water supply
  - Methods of providing alternative DW supplies
- ◆ Ensure Compliance







# EPA's Homeland Security Strategic Plan -- Critical Infrastructure Protection Goal 1

## ◆ Enhance Security of Water and Wastewater Utilities

- Tools, Training and Financial Assistance
- Research and Technology Development
- Build Security into Ongoing Practices
- Information Exchange on Threats and Incidents
- Coordination with Law Enforcement, Emergency Response, Medical and Lab Sectors
- Coordination with Interdependent Infrastructures



# Challenges

- ◆ Actions to reduce risk—look for multiple benefits
  - Sound business practices—Incorporating Security into “Business as Usual”
  - System upgrades
  - Security upgrades
- ◆ Planning for emergencies—“Four P’s”
  - Partner
  - Protect
  - Plan
  - Practice



**For More Information...**

[www.epa.gov/safewater/security](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/security)

